and per force the entire requirement of these fertilizers is met through imports. Apart from direct application, imported potash is used by the indigenous manufacturers for making complex fertilizers.

Drinking Water Scheme for Fluoride Affected Villages

877. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Drinking Water Scheme for fluoride affected villages of Chanasma Taluka DF plant has been submitted by government of Gujarat to his Ministry for formal approval;.

(b) whether the formal approval has been given;

(c) if so, when the clearance was given; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in according approval of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The approval has been communicated on 27th September, 1993 and a sum of Rs. 25 lakh has also been released to Gujarat Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Gandhi Nagar for this project.

Sale of Domestic Steel in the International Market

878. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 1247 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th August, 1995 and state:

(a) whether it is unprofitable to sell domestic steel in the international market; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) There is no authentic data about the cost of production of steel in other countries. However, bureau of Industrial Cost & Prices (BICP) has recently submitted a tour report on cost study of steel industry. According to this report, the cost of production of saleable steel in Bokaro and Bhilai Steel Plants of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during 1994-95 was lacs than the cost of production in Korea (Pohang Plant of Posco) and Japan (Kimitsu Plant of Nippon). The cost of production of saleable steel of SAIL during 1994 was less than the cost of production in USA, UK, France and Germany. The international cost competitiveness of individual products will, however, depend upon factors such as quality, freight, lovies and taxes, etc.

Viability of export depends upon the prevailing domestic prices, prevailing international prices, domestic demand and incentives available for exports.

भारतीय इस्पात प्राधिकरण लिमिटेड (सेल) द्वारा कोयले की खरीद

879. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय** :

श्री अनन्तराय जायसवाल :

क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारतीय इस्पात प्राधिकरण लिमिटेड इस समय प्रति वर्ष किन-किन उपक्रमों से कोयला (गैर कोकिंग-कोयले सहित) खरीद रहा है और प्रति टन कोयले की दर का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि भारतीय इस्पात प्राधिकरण लिमिटेड को अच्छी गुणवत्ता का कोयला नहीं मिल रहा हैं जिसके परिणामस्वरूप उसके उपोत्पादनों की गुणवत्ता भी प्रभावित हो रही है;

(ग) क्या भारतीय इस्पात प्राधिकरण लिमिटेड ने इस संबंध में संबंधित विभाग को सूचित कर दिया है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस बारे में कब सूचित किया गया और संबंधित विभाग द्वारा इस संबंध में कितने दिन बाद कार्यवाही की गई; और

(ड) सरकार ने भारतीय इस्पात प्राधिकरण को अच्छी गुणवत्ता के कोयले की आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित करने हेतु क्या कदम उठाए हैं?

इस्पात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष मोहन देव) : (क) स्टील अथॉरिटी आफ इंडिया लिमिटेड कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड की विभिन्न सहायक कम्पनियों नामतः भारत कोकिंग कोल लि0 सेन्ट्रल कोल फील्ड्स लिमिटेड, वेस्टर्न कोल फील्डस लि0, ए ईस्टर्न कोल फील्ड्स लि0,